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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,265	07/03/2003	Gregg Stoutenburg Evans	77,706-030	4867

7590 07/21/2005

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC  
SUITE 300  
39577 WOODWARD  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304

EXAMINER
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TO, TOAN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3616

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/613,265	EVANS, GREGG STOUTENBURG	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Toan C. To	3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. In view of reconsideration, the indicated allowability of claims 7 and 12-17 in previous Office Action is withdrawn. Rejections based on the cited reference(s) follow.

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. The amendment after final filed on July 11, 2005 is acknowledged. The amendment has been entered in the file of record.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5-7, and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patzelt et al in view of Shiratori et al (U.S. 4,148,503).

Patzelt et al discloses an airbag cover having an H-shape tear seam (8), the tear seam comprising: a transverse segment having a width extending beyond the perimeter of an underlying airbag door (14); and a first end segment and a second end segment opposing one another, the transverse segment extending between and intersecting each of the first end segment and the second end segment at locations distal from the perimeter of the underlying airbag door (14).

Patzelt et al discloses the airbag comprising the tear seam as discussed above. Patzelt et al fails to disclose the particular shape for each segment of the tear seam and interconnection thereof.

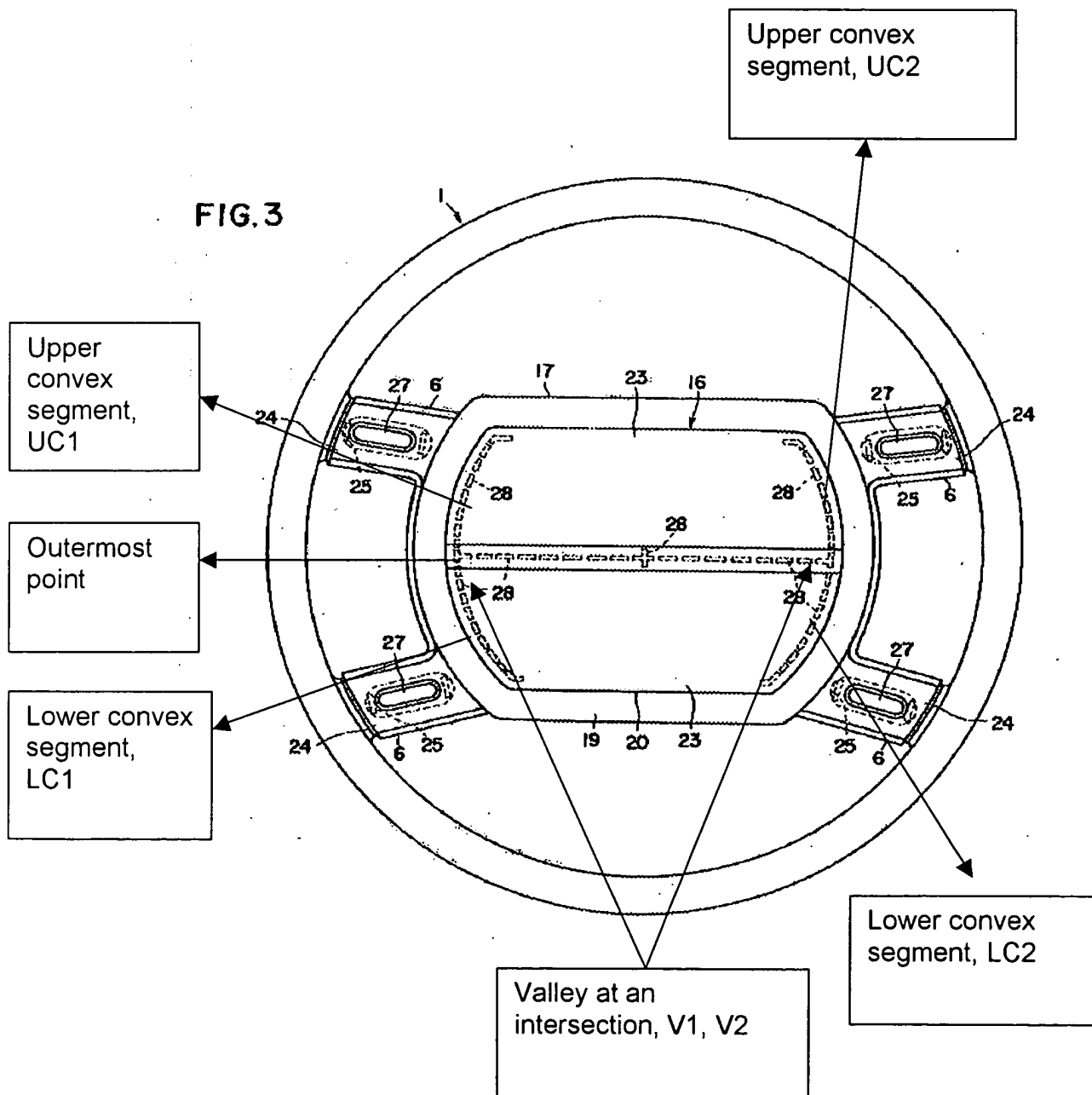
Shiratori et al teaches the invention, wherein the tear seam comprising (as best seen in figure 3) the first end segment and second end segment (28), each including at least one convex segment/uniform arc/parabolic shape proximal the intersection of the first end segment with the transverse segment and substantially symmetric about the intersection with the transverse segment; each convex segment (28) adapted to be substantially perpendicular to a deployment induced stress pattern in the airbag covering; wherein, the at least one convex segment is a single convex segment adapted to have its outermost point corresponding to the intersection with the transverse segment.

Shirator et al further teaches (see attached figure 3 below) the at least one convex segment of the first end segment comprises an upper convex segment (UC1) and a lower convex segment (LC1) meeting to form a valley (V1) at the intersection of the first end segment with the transverse segment; and the at least one convex segment of the second end segment comprises an upper convex segment (UC2) and a lower convex segment (LC2) meeting to form a valley (V2) at the intersection of the second end segment with the transverse segment

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the tear seam of Patzelt et al by using the tear seam as taught by Shirator et al in order to ensure proper performance of the airbag upon

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inflation, and to smoothly inflate the airbag such that providing better protection for occupant.



5. Claims 8-11, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patzelt et al and Shiratori et al and further in view of Gardner, Jr (U.S. 6,753,057).

Patzelt et al and Shiratori do not explicitly disclose how the tear seam is formed.

Gardner teaches the invention; wherein, the tear seam is formed by a laser and the tear seam is either continuous or discontinuous. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the tear seam of Patzelt et al by using the method of making the tear seam as taught by Gardner in order to ensure proper performance of the airbag upon inflation, and to smoothly inflate the airbag such that providing better protection for occupant.

Further, claims 8-11, and 14-17 are considered as a product-by-process claims, MPEP 2113 state that:

The patentability of the product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior art product was made by different process.

For this reason alone, claims 8-11, and 14-17 are unpatentable over the prior art as to Patzelt et al.


**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTo  
July 15, 2005

 7/17/05  
PAUL N. DICKSON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600